

BECKHAM'S SPEECH.

Continued from Page 2.

fair and reasonable to the railroads, and encouraged their progress and development in the state, but it has also insisted that they shall bear their just portion of taxation and be fair and reasonable in their dealings with the people.

The Cause of Education.

Governor Bradley says nothing at all about the schools and the cause of education because he knows that nothing was done for them during his and Taylor's administrations. He knows the vast good done for them under Democratic administration, and therefore ignores the subject. He does not even attempt to explain the flagrant action of his administration in the year 1899 in padding the school fund and increasing the school per capita to \$2.70 for its effect upon the campaign of that year. Nor does he answer the charge that this inexcusable attempt for campaign material caused a deficit the following year of \$147,000 in the school fund, which the Democratic administration had to make good, and caused the per capita that year to fall to \$2.45. The Democratic administration has raised it from \$2.45 to \$3.40. It has increased the school term from five months to six months of free tuition throughout the commonwealth. It has established two normal schools for our teachers. It has given generously to the State College and to the State Colored Normal School. It has passed the school-book bill in the face of his and his party's opposition, that gives to the school children of the state their school books at one-third less than they formerly paid. In the face of Republican promises, which can never be relied upon, it presents facts like these.

He complains that we have no platform. The record of the Democratic administration is a sufficient platform, and the people consider it far preferable to the vain promises in the Republican platform. Their experience with the Bradley and Taylor administrations has taught them that Republican platform promises are not worth the paper they are written on.

By a jugglery of figures he tries to show that the cost of public printing under his administration was less than it has been under Democratic administration. He states what the records prove to be untrue, for those records show that under Democratic administration there has been a much greater amount of public printing done than under the Republican administration and at \$2,567.91 less cost per year.

He also says, and I quote his words: "Why did the party they claim to represent decline to make an appropriation to advance the interest of Kentucky at the St. Louis and Jamestown expositions? Why did they leave the state they loved in the humiliating attitude of having no building?" On the other hand I ask why does the ex-governor, in such a question, state a proposition which he knows to be untrue? This administration did make an appropriation in the general assembly of 1904 of \$75,000 for an exhibit at the St. Louis exposition, and everybody knows, who visited that exposition, that Kentucky was one of the best represented states there.

Brazen Distortion of Facts.

It is impossible, with the limitations of time upon this address to recite all the bare-faced and brazen distortions of facts and perversions of figures in that remarkable speech of his. It is without a parallel for inaccuracy, misrepresentation and deception.

Long as is that speech there is a conspicuous absence of any reference to the collection of the civil war claims by Capt. Calhoun. Why has the distinguished ex-governor nothing to say about that important matter which came up in his administration, and also in mine? His associate candidates have tried to make some capital out of the fee paid Capt. Calhoun for that work. The amount collected was \$1924,000, and Capt. Calhoun's fee was a little over \$71,000, or a fraction more than 5 per cent, the lowest fee paid by any state in the Union for similar collections. Gov. Bradley knew of the existence of this claim because he approved vouchers for \$75.00 for expenses for having it investigated. In a letter signed by his assistant adjutant-general, whom he appointed, that official says: "I will state that in the year of 1896 I learned of the decision in the New York case, and I at once set about to enforce the collection of the claim of Kentucky and for the purpose went to Washington in January, 1897, and collected data and decisions which convinced me that Kentucky could recover something near one hundred thousand dollars. I came back to Frankfort and laid the whole matter before the governor and it seemed little faith was placed by the state administration in the success of prosecuting the claim and the governor and auditor decided that they would not advance expenses, etc., and the matter was dropped as I did not feel justified in advancing my own money. I had no doubt if I had done so I could have received a contingent fee of 25 per cent if I had taken the risk of collections."

If such a contract had been made by Gov. Bradley and the same amount had been collected then the fee for its collection would have been \$130,000 instead of \$71,000. But nothing further was done by that administration toward the collection of this money, and when I came into office I employed Capt. Calhoun to collect it. After that employment the distinguished ex-governor who had failed

in his duty in the matter as governor sought to get employment with Capt. Calhoun and secure a part of the fee. He wrote the following letter to Calhoun:

February 19th, 1902

"Dear Captain:—I notice that a bill has been passed authorizing the employment of counsel in collection of Kentucky war claim.

"I write merely to suggest that I might be of some assistance and will thank you if you see fit to make some suggestions concerning the matter.

Your friend,

(Signed) "W. O. BRADLEY."

Facts Speak for Themselves.

These facts speak for themselves, and it is not necessary to aid anyone in forming a sensible conclusion about them. After his dereliction of duty as governor in regard to this important matter he sought to make amends by an attempt to divide the fee for collection with Capt. Calhoun. And yet he boasts of the "many worthy things" and the "splendid financial achievements" of his administration! He undertakes to justify his action in the election of 1899—his use of the military then, and at other times—but history has stamped with its vigorous disapproval those acts of his and his usurpations of power. No excuse whatever can be given for what he did, and time cannot wipe out the disgraceful blot of his unwarranted action in those matters. He says that Goebel and the Democratic ticket were not elected. The general assembly of the state said that they were. The courts, from the circuit court of the state to the supreme court of the United States vindicated that decision of the general assembly. In the election of 1900, when I was the candidate of the Democratic party to fill out Gov. Goebel's unexpired term, the Republicans made that question an issue in the campaign. They had a corruption fund, furnished by the National Republican Committee, of \$267,000 to defeat the Democratic ticket, and yet the people in that election endorsed the decision of their general assembly by electing me with nearly 4,000 majority. They further endorsed that action in the election of 1902 by electing our state ticket with nearly 27,000 majority. That question has been settled by every possible earthly tribunal, settled in every instance in our favor. He has the hardihood to boast of his action in using the militia at the polls in 1899, and yet he could not spend his remaining years with better grace than in the continual effort to apologize to the people for that crime against free elections, and that blow at civil liberty. He spoils his argument by undertaking to refer to the election of 1905 in the city of Louisville, which was declared void by the court of appeals last spring. The history of that case shows that remedies for fraudulent elections may be found in our courts, and not by the use of military at the polls. His reference to that case was most unfortunate for there it was shown that a Democratic court would remedy such evils even where Democratic officials should keep their places, and in the opinion of the court in that case it was held that the use of military at the polls would invalidate an election.

His attempt to make fun of the election in the Bully's Mill precinct in Franklin county, where it is claimed there were 104 votes fraudulently counted for the Democratic tickets amounts to little. The Democratic party condemns fraud in elections, and when this matter was brought to light a Democratic court and a Democratic grand jury promptly indicted the guilty parties.

One fraud does not justify another, and yet it would be possible, if worth while, to show in that same election where far greater frauds, especially in some of the Republican counties, were committed against the Democratic ticket.

Might Have Averted Calamity.

When he undertakes to repudiate Taylor and his administration we confront him with his own bad record at that time. No man in Frankfort during those dark days did more to

stir up the angry passions of the mob and bring about lawlessness and crime than did Governor Bradley, the friend and attorney of Taylor, in his violent and inflammatory utterances. In his sworn testimony as a witness in one of the Goebel assassination cases he admitted that he had been informed several times of the plot to murder William Goebel, and yet, although Goebel had once signally befriended him, he failed to go and warn him of his danger. He cannot excuse his failure to do so by saying that two or three of the fellows who were in the plot came and told him there was nothing in it. He cannot excuse it now by denouncing that assassination as an infamous outrage. With the information which he received, and which subsequent developments have shown to be correct, he might have averted that calamity and saved the life of the man who had once done him such a great favor. He was in the convention, his friend, Mr. Willson, and other Republican candidates were in that same Republican convention which "indorsed, without reserve the resolute and patriotic conduct of W. S. Taylor."

He bewails the fact that Democratic leaders in this campaign refer at all to the events of that dark and bloody period. We Democrats regret that it is necessary to refer to them, but we would be recreant to our duty to the people if we failed to call attention to these matters that happened less than eight years ago, and which illustrate, more than words can picture, the character and results of Republican administration in this state.

I state a fact that every citizen knows to be true, that the period from December, 1895, when Bradley became governor, to February, 1900, when Taylor was unseated, was the blackest and gloomiest in the history of the state, with the possible exception of the Civil war. The record of that administration is as barren as a desert. There was not a single good deed in it, nor a single event that marked advancement and progress for our people. From the gloom of such a disastrous record it is natural that these Republican candidates should turn in dismay and seek, by a resurrection of exploded slanders, forgeries and falsehoods, to mislead the minds of the people, and prevent them from considering the real issues of the campaign. If time would permit no I could show in many instances where the candidates of the Republican state ticket, including Mr. Willson, have pursued the same policy as Governor Bradley did in this speech, and have deliberately misrepresented the facts and stated things which they knew to be untrue. In my campaign from one end of the state to the other I have been amazed at the extent to which some of these men have gone in their perversion of facts.

The Temperance Question.

Governor Bradley in his speech tries to belittle the temperance question in this contest, and says "probably the people at large would have more confidence in the professions of Beckham and Hager if they could show any act in favor of temperance during their official career." That means that the ex-governor states that nothing has been done for the temperance cause during this administration. The record of the laws passed and enforced by us is a complete refutation of this statement. There is no fair-minded, non-partisan temperance advocate in Kentucky who does not say that under this administration, and with its assistance Kentucky has obtained some of the wisest and best temperance laws that can be found in any state in the Union. These facts are so well known to our people that it is unnecessary to adduce further proof to show the falsity of his statement. Judge Hager and the Democratic candidates can point to the record of the Democratic administration upon this question as a guarantee of their sincerity and position on it. There is nothing plainer in this campaign than the effort of Mr. Willson to dodge, or straddle, this question. They cannot attack our position by the use of slander and calumny. The bitterness and unfairness of the distinguished ex-governor toward us can be accounted for to some extent by the fact that much of this temperance legislation which we have passed is distasteful to some of his best clients. Consequently, when he discusses this issue in the campaign we are unable to tell whether he is most representing these clients or the Republican ticket. But he should not allow his earnestness as an attorney to cause him to lose his temper and provoke him to make such vicious and unwarranted attacks upon us. The Democratic party has no apologies to make for its record upon this question, and confidently trusts that the people of the state will not be misled by the character of campaign waged upon its candidates by Governor Bradley and his satellites. The issue is so clear that those who run may read. It is a choice between the policies of the Bradley-Taylor administration, for which Mr. Willson stands, and the policies of the Democratic administration represented by Judge Hager and his ticket. No sensible, patriotic or intelligent citizen can hesitate in such a choice. The campaign is now more than half over. I have been in every part of the state, and it is my candid opinion from what I have seen and heard that the Democratic ticket will, Nov. 5, be elected by an overwhelming majority. The people of Kentucky love fair play and condemn hypocrisy. They are determined that a ticket like the Republican ticket, which bases its campaign upon falsehood and deception, shall not succeed in this glorious old commonwealth.



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